Thomas Cushman is Deffenbaugh de Hoyos Professor in the Social Sciences and Professor of Sociology at Wellesley College. He holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Virginia with a concentration on the comparative study of communist societies, with a special emphasis on communist party control of civil society and dissidence. He has taught and written extensively on the use of propaganda by authoritarian governments to shape public opinion in liberal democratic societies. He is the author or editor of eight books, is the founder and former editor-in chief of *The Journal of Human Rights,* and is a prominent activist in the global freedom movement and supporting dissidents in contemporary authoritarian societies. In 2009-2010, he served as an External Examiner at Lingnan University in Hong Kong.